

## John Coffee to Andrew Jackson, December 17, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN COFFEE TO JACKSON.

“Camp at Mouth of Sandy Creek, four O’clock A. M.”, December 17, 1814.

*Dear Genl*, Your orders through your Adj. Genl.<sup>1</sup> by express per Captain Gordon, was handed me, about eight O’clock last evening, one of my Regiments was absent 4 miles foraging, (never as yet being able to procure that article here) my orders were sent immediately, and by exertion shall move my command this morning at sunrise, no time will be lost by me until I reach New Orleans, I think we will reach you in four days, say by the evening of the 20th Instant.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These orders, by Robert Butler, adjutant-general, dated Dec. 14, were as follows:

“*Sir*, You will immediately on receipt hereof move your command day and night (as far as practicable) to this place where you will receive further orders. Make arrangements for the immediate transportation of forage down the river to meet the demands of your brigade, despatch an order to Major Hinds commg. M. Dragoons to hasten in like manner his movements to this point. Should any of the troops from the upper country be near you, notify them of the importance of their immediate exertion to reach their destination. The British are arriving on our coast at or near Cat Island in considerable force. Near thirty sail came in last evening and more in sight, principally calculated for the lake navigation.

“To you it is deemed unnecessary to say—hasten to the field of danger.”

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2 Coffee arrived at New Orleans in the early morning of the 20th and went into camp four miles north of the city. On his march, see Bassett's *Jackson*, I. 170, n. 1. Carroll arrived Dec. 21 and went into camp with Coffee.

My arms are in bad condition, and now I have no time to examine into their state, but I know we have from 2 to 4 hundred that are not good—if I could be furnished with muskets, and Cartridge Boxes to that amount I should be glad, it would be well to have the Boxes filled with cartridges before my arrival, all my powder has been destroyed, by the rains on the march to this place. furnish us with the best rifle powder that can be had,

My command are in fine sperits, and if we can reach you before Lord Hill arrives, we will give him a warm reception. Any supplies of arms and Amunition that I am to receive from you, would be well to be forwarded to some point above Orleans, and reced. before we enter the town. I have dispatched an express to Genl. Carroll, have not heard of him since Col Hynes passed me, have also sent for Major Hyds Dragoons, every thing here is in motion, have two large Barges here, and my quarter master will some how or other, fill them with corn, say 2000, bushels and meet me at orleans.

I have the honor to be